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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 15, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 10 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 12.6 percent above the corresponding period a year ago.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 783.8 billion ton-miles, 3.3 percent above the comparable period of last year. The Association of American Railroads reported today.

Carloadings in the week ended December 10 totaled 391,607 cars, 14.0 percent over 1982, and 2.8 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 21.1 percent in the East, 7.7 percent in the South and 13.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Grain was the biggest gainer, up 10,276 cars, or 48.9 percent. Other commodities showing sharp increases were: coal, up 7,292 cars, or 7.0 percent; motor vehicles and equipment, up 6,198 cars, or 42.5 percent, and waste and scrap materials, up 2,555 cars, or 38.6 percent. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

## Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 3 totaled 47,197 cars, up 20.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 87,032 trailers and/or containers, 27.0 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 2,164,812 cars, 21.7 percent higher than last year, and 3,759,167 trailers and/or containers, up 19.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/10/83:

| | Loadings in Week ended December 10, 1983 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1982 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 31,275 | I | 10,276 | 48.9 | I | 5,423 | 21.0 |
| Other farm products | 4,106 | D | 1,813 | 30.6 | D | 107 | 2.5 |
| Metallic ores | 14,286 | I | 386 | 2.8 | D | 1,057 | 6.9 |
| Coal | 111,340 | I | 7,292 | 7.0 | I | 6,597 | 6.3 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 10,192 | I | 2,133 | 26.5 | D | 391 | 3.7 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 11,620 | I | 1,263 | 12.2 | D | 822 | 6.6 |
| Grain mill products | 11,520 | D | 589 | 4.9 | I | 1,073 | 10.3 |
| Food and kindred products | 11,666 | D | 1,296 | 10.0 | I | 162 | 1.4 |
| Primary forest products | 14,595 | I | 148 | 1.0 | D | 592 | 3.9 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 6,963 | I | 853 | 14.0 | I | 62 | 0.9 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 15,313 | I | 250 | 1.7 | D | 745 | 4.6 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 23,412 | I | 3,346 | 16.7 | D | 1,986 | 7.8 |
| Petroleum products | 4,891 | I | 339 | 7.4 | I | 16 | 0.3 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 10,406 | I | 1,698 | 19.5 | D | 412 | 3.8 |
| Coke | 5,639 | I | 1,944 | 52.6 | D | 788 | 12.3 |
| Metals and products | 8,968 | I | 2,681 | 42.6 | D | 596 | 6.2 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 20,794 | I | 6,198 | 42.5 | I | 986 | 5.0 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 9,493 | I | 2,555 | 38.6 | I | 740 | 8.5 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 9,928 | I | 2,520 | 34.0 | I | 549 | 5.9 |
| All other carloads | 54,956 | I | 8,746 | 18.9 | I | 2,648 | 5.1 |
| LCL traffic | 244 | D | 784 | 76.3 | I | 8 | 3.4 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 391,607 | I | 48,146 | 14.0 | I | 10,768 | 2.8 |
| Corresponding week of 1982 | 343,461 | | | | | | |

| | 1983 | 1982 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks) | 17,864,496 | 17,665,221 | I 1.1 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 48 weeks ended December 3 | 766.4 | 743.3 | I 3.1 |
| Week ended December 10 | 17.4 | 15.5 | I 12.6 |
| 49 weeks cumulative | 783.8 | 758.8 | I 3.3 |

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